

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of organizing a plurality of digital images in a predetermined page format utilizing a software program running on a computer, comprising the steps of:

grouping said plurality of digital images into a plurality of different page layouts wherein any one of said plurality of images may be located in any position in said plurality of page layouts, each of said page layouts capable of being printed and having white space between said plurality of digital images;

analyzing each of said different page layouts and spatially balancing said white space between said plurality of digital images in accordance to the amount of white space in each of said plurality of different page layouts; and

selecting the page layout based on the amount of white space determined for each of said plurality of different page layouts and the spatial balance of said white space between said plurality of digital images.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The method according to claim 1 further comprising placing said plurality of digital images in said selected page layout.

3. Cancelled

4 (Currently Amended) The~~A~~ method according to claim 1 wherein said analyzing said different page layouts comprises scoring each of said different page layouts.

5. (Currently Amended) The~~A~~ method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of further scaling the digital images of said selected page layout by different amounts.

6. (Currently Amended) The A-method according to claim 1 wherein the amount of white space is minimized by using stochastic algorithms.

7. (Currently Amended) The A-method according to claim 1 wherein said different page layouts includes placing images in a non-overlapping pattern.

8. (Currently Amended) The A-method according to claim 1 wherein said placing of said plurality of digital images in said different page layouts comprises scaling all of said images such that they fit within said page format.

9. (Currently Amended) The A-method according to claim 4 wherein said analyzing of said different page layouts comprises a iteration of comparing sequentially two different page layouts and selecting the best page layout until little or no further improvement in scoring is obtained.

10. (Currently Amended) The A-method according to claim 9 further comprising the step of scaling at least one of said plurality of digital images of the page layout obtained after said iteration.

11. (Currently Amended) The A-method according to claim 9 further comprising the step of rotating at least one of said plurality of said digital images a predetermined amount.

12. (Currently Amended) The A-method according to claim 8 wherein said scaling of said plurality of digital images comprises reducing the size of said plurality of digital images.

13. (Currently Amended) The A-method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of positioning said images in said selected page layout so as to provide a desired border on said page.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A-method according to claim 12 wherein said white space is determined vertically between adjacent images in said page layouts.

15 (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A-method according to claim 12 wherein said white space is determined horizontally between adjacent images in said page layouts.

16. (Currently Amended) A system for organizing a plurality of digital images in a predetermined format, comprising:

a first computer for composing a plurality of digital images on a page;

a software program such that when loaded on said computer will causes said computer to group said plurality of digital images into a plurality of different page layouts wherein any one of said plurality of images may be located in any position in said plurality of page layouts, each of said page layouts capable of being printed and having white space between said plurality of digital images;

analyzing each of said different page layouts in accordance with a respect to the amount of said white space in each of said plurality of different page layouts and spatially balancing said white space between said plurality of digital images; and

selecting the page layout based on said the amount of white space determined for each of said plurality of different page layouts and the spatial balance of said white space between said plurality of digital images.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~~~The~~ system according to claim 16, wherein said computer can be accessed remotely over a communication network.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~~~A~~ system according to claim 17, wherein said computer is accessed by a second computer.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~~~A~~ system according to claim 18, wherein said software program is run on said first computer.

20. (Currently Amended) TheA system according to claim 18, wherein said second computer is the personal computer of a customer.

21. (Currently Amended) TheA system according to claim 17, wherein said computer is accessed by a retail kiosk.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer software product for organizing a plurality of digital images in a predetermined format which when loaded into a computer causes the computer to perform the following steps:

grouping said plurality of digital images into a plurality of different page layouts wherein any one of said plurality of images may be located in any position in said plurality of page layouts, each of said page layouts capable of being printed and having white space between said plurality of digital images;

analyzing each of said different page layouts in accordance with a respect to the amount of said white space in each of said plurality of different page layouts and spatially balancing said white space between said plurality of digital images; and

selecting the page layout based on said the amount of white space determined for each of said plurality of different page layouts and the spatial balance of said white space between said plurality of digital images.

23. (Currently Amended) A method of organizing a plurality of digital images in a predetermined page format utilizing a software program running on a computer, comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of digital images;

selecting a number of said digital images for placement on said predetermined format;

grouping said plurality of digital images into a plurality of different page layouts wherein any one of said plurality of images may be located in any position in said plurality of page layouts each of said page layouts capable of being printed and having white space between said plurality of digital images;

normalizing said plurality of digital images that are to be placed on each of said different page layouts;

analyzing each of said different page layouts in accordance with a respect to the amount of white space in each of said plurality of different page layouts; and

selecting the page layout based on said the amount of white space determined for each of said plurality of different page layouts.

24. (Previously Presented) A method of organizing a plurality of digital images in a predetermined page format including an image void area utilizing a software program running on a computer, comprising the steps of:

identifying an area to be void of digital images;

grouping said plurality of digital images into a plurality of different page layouts wherein any one of said plurality of images may be located in any position in said plurality of page layouts, each of said page layouts capable of being printed including said void area of images;

analyzing each of said different page layouts in accordance with a respect to the amount of white space in each of said plurality of different page layouts and spatially balancing said white space between said plurality of digital images; and

selecting the page layout based on said the amount of white space determined for each of said plurality of different page layouts and the spatial balance of said white space between said plurality of digital images

25. (Previously Presented) A method of organizing a plurality of digital images in a predetermined page format including at least one digital image to be placed in a predetermined image location utilizing the software program running on a computer, comprising the steps of:

identifying said at least one digital image and the location of said at least one predetermined image location;

grouping said plurality of digital images into a plurality of different page layouts wherein any one of said plurality of images may be located in any position in said plurality of page layouts, each of said page layouts capable of being printed including said at least one image placed in said at least one predetermined image location;

analyzing each of said different page layouts in accordance with a respect to the amount of white space in each of said plurality of different page layouts and spatially balancing said white space between said plurality of digital images; and

selecting the page layout based on said the amount of white space determined for each of said plurality of different page layouts and spatially balancing said white space between said plurality of digital images.

26. (Currently Amended) The A-method according to claim 25 further comprising the step of permitting a user to request another page layout.

27. (Currently Amended) A computer software product for organizing a plurality of digital images in a predetermined format, said software program when loaded onto a computer causes the computer to perform the steps of:

identifying said at least one digital image and the location of said at least one predetermined image location;

grouping said plurality of digital images into a plurality of different page layouts wherein any one of said plurality of images may be located in any position in said plurality of page layouts, each of said page layouts capable of being printed including said at least one image placed in said at least one predetermined image location;

analyzing each of said different page layouts in accordance with respect to the amount of white space in each of said plurality of different page layouts and spatially balancing said white space between said plurality of digital images; and

selecting the page layout based on said the amount of white space determined for each of said plurality of different page layouts and spatially balancing said white space between said plurality of digital images.